

## Speak for Thyself Awards at the Alden House



Attendees were treated to a blast from the past as John and Priscilla Alden made an appearance at the dinner. The first floor of the Alden House was open for guests to explore.



A rendition of "Hail to the Chief" in honor of Former First Lady Barbara Bush, who could not make the event, was played by the Bud Siroonian Orchestra. The group livened things up a bit after dinner, providing the perfect atmosphere for dancing.

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Charles Bilezikian stands proudly next to his wife Doreen, a recipient of the Speak for Thyself award. The Bilezikians of Yarmouthport started the first Christmas Tree Shop there in 1970. When they sold the business several years ago, 23 Christmas Tree Shop stores existed across the country. This was the couple's first trip to the Alden House.



Motivational speaker and columnist Loretta LaRoche shared some hilarious advice with the crowd about how to de-stress after she received her Speak for Thyself award.



Alden descendent Brian Cook helped organize the gala and bestowed the granite awards to each of the recipients.



Alden "Rink" Ringquist assisted Cook with planning the event. He shared with the crowd the Alden Kindred's wish to gain National Historic Landmark status. The home is already on the National Historic Register.

**P**riscilla Alden's famous saying to future husband John Alden to "speak for thyself" was the catalyst for an awards ceremony honoring four courageous American women. Former First Lady Barbara Bush, the dame of Duxbury Helen Philbrick, columnist and motivational speaker Loretta LaRoche and Christmas Tree Shop co-founder Doreen Bilezikian were the first four recipients of this annual award. The ceremony was held on Saturday evening under a tent on the front lawn of the historic Alden House with nearly 200 residents along with Philbrick, LaRoche and Bilezikian in attendance.



**Speak for Thyself award recipient Helen Philbrick smiles with her relative Pat Michaud. The 96-year-old Duxbury resident recently wrote a book and still teaches caning at the Senior Center.**



**President of the Alden Kindred, Linda Osborne, poses with her distant cousin Pauline Kezer. Kezer, an Alden descendent, recently donated three pieces of furniture to the Alden House. She said the pieces had been in the home back in the 1700s when Major Judah Alden resided in the dwelling.**